

A mixed models approach (SAS PROC MIXED) with fixed and random effects is used for analysis as follows:

Model: mixed models analysis

$$y_{ijk} = \mu + \text{site}_{(0,1)} + \text{time}_j + \text{participant}_i + \text{tech}_k + e_{ijk}$$

i = participant

j = main or repeat

k = technician

Site: 0=Memphis, 1=Pittsburgh

fixed effects: site, time

random effects: participant, technician

This model makes the following distributional assumptions:

outcome variables are normally distributed $e_{ijk} \sim N(0, \sigma_e^2)$

random effects are normally distributed

$\text{technician}_k \sim N(0, \sigma_t^2)$

$\text{participant}_i \sim N(0, \sigma_p^2)$

From this model, a coefficient of variation between technicians can be estimated, the possibility that a single examiner differs from all other examiners can be tested, and the relative contribution of technician and participant variation to the overall variation can be calculated.